



HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

BAPTIST PRESS

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BUREAUBAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
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Academic Dean Resigns

July 12, 1968

JACKSON, TENN. (BP)--An internal dispute at Union University here finally erupted into a student protest after the dean of academics announced his resignation as "not a voluntary choice."

After Dean Charles Taylor made a lengthy announcement to the press, about 60 students of the Baptist university made an orderly protest march from the campus to the courthouse and back.

"We wanted to let the community know that we protest against the pressures on Dean Taylor," said student government President Ron Bradley, a ministerial student from St. Louis.

He said students felt some trustees had pressured Taylor to resign.

Since the close of the spring term at the school, 22 staff and faculty members have resigned, seven of whom labeled their action as "protest resignations." Several expressed concern over a de-emphasis of academics.

Ed Deusner of Lexington, Tenn., chairman of the board of trustees, described the dispute between students and administration as a struggle over which direction the school will take: "a strong emphasis on academics, and a diminished emphasis on religion," or vice versa.

President Robert E. Craig and student leader Bradley both emphasized, however, that "it is not a conflict over religion."

Bradley said that trustees "have taken over the role of administration" and are "exploiting the president's office to clear out men who they do not feel are teaching what should be taught.

"They are trying to make this school into a fundamental-only view of Baptists," Bradley said.

"This is not a reaction against the president, but we would want him to stand up for our faculty. We feel he is being used to give the axe to certain people."

Craig said: "I would deny that."

Dean Charles Taylor told a Baptist Press reporter that two trustees and others told him weeks in advance that he was to be dismissed. No specific charges were mentioned, he said.

"My resignation was not a voluntary choice," Taylor said. "Trustees have informed me of the inevitable. My choice was to either fight it out or resign."

Taylor said "emissaries" were sent to him to tell him to initiate a meeting with Craig, but Taylor responded that it was not his responsibility to initiate "a meeting to discuss my own dismissal." The next day, he said, he resigned.

The first move by the students was prior to Taylor's resignation, when Bradley and a group of about 110 students asked for a meeting with President Craig. Then there was a one-day boycott of classes, marked by a continuous march around the administration building.

"I think the few unhappy faculty members and the few unhappy students have been treated very fairly," Craig said. "Their complaints have been listened to by the proper administrative authorities and the executive committee."

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One administrative official pointed out that Bradley and "others" were not enrolled in the summer session.

Questions put to Craig by the students were aimed at finding out why resigning faculty members had hinted at alleged academic suppression, and why there was suddenly such a rash of resignations.

"We did not get adequate answers," Bradley said. "He was very evasive.

"We asked about the new faculty members for the fall, and he said that they have degrees equal to or superior to those of the people who had left."

Bradley said, however, that the students knew that at least one department directorship was to be filled by a man whose training was in another field of study.

The dispute seemed to revolve around the executive committee of the 33-member board of trustees for the school. The students claim interference from the executive committee, Craig denies it.

Craig pointed out that the board of trustees was not made up of ministers only, but that doctors, lawyers, businessmen, educators, etc. are on the board.

The students, however, have stated that of the eight-man executive committee, seven are ministers. (They did not count layman Craig himself, however.)

Craig said he did not really see why the students were protesting, but that he recognized their right to speak out. He said he admired the students for acting peacefully and mature, and said no disciplinary action would result.

A student said, however: "It will really hit the fan when the students return in the fall."

Student leader Bradley said he hoped that the Union students' peaceful and orderly protest would be taken as a public example "of how students can successfully express dissent in an orderly, mature way through student government action."

He said the students had succeeded in their aim.

"We have alerted our concerned alumni, the city of Jackson, men of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and trustee members who have been inactive and who have not taken sides and who have let the executive committee run everything," he said.

- 30 -

D. C. Church Shares
Bonus With HMB

July 12, 1968

ATLANTA, GA. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board received a check for \$1,223.62 over and above its normal mission gifts from the Takoma Park Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Paul G. Gillespie, pastor, wrote: "Though we are an integrated church in an unstable, racially changing community, God blessed us in such a way that we exceeded our 1967 budget by about \$8,000.

"We are marking this gift over and above our normal support of the Cooperative Program and sending it to the Home Mission Board due to your excellent commitment to become involved in solving the current social crisis in America's cities," he said.

The church, which is dually-aligned with the American Baptist Convention, sent a similar amount to the World Mission Campaign of that denomination.

- 30 -

D. D. Lewis Retires
In South Carolina

July 12, 1968

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--D. D. Lewis, associate in the Sunday School Department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention for more than 22 years, has retired.

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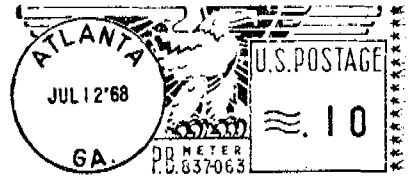


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